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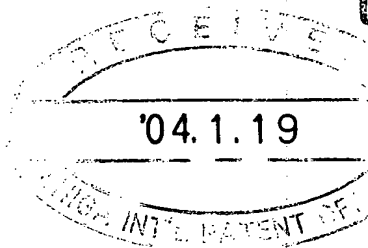
Date: 09 January 2004

SHIGA INTERNATIONAL PATENT
OFFICE
2-3-1 Yaesu
Chuo-Ku
TOKYO 104-8453
JAPON

Y/REF: OSP-11161

O/REF: **SR 20175.JP/EE**
SP2-3370-EE/mbRE: European Patent Application
N° 00 949 942.7/2114

Applicant: Morinaga & Co., Ltd



CONFIRMATION

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VERY URGENT

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Dear Sirs,

Please find herewith a copy of the communication concerning a partial European search report relating to the above-identified European application together with copies of the cited documents.

According to the European Patent Office, the application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention.

This partial search report only relates to a first group of claims, as indicated in the enclosed copy of the communication. You may comment the documents cited in the report and/or amend the claims before receipt of the first Office Action from the Examining Division. Nevertheless, this answer is not compulsory.

A supplementary European search report can be obtained for each remaining group of claims upon payment of a further search fee for each group **before January 20, 2004**.

Unless otherwise instructed before this date, we will not respond to the search report and we will not pay any additional search fees. However, if the Examining Division maintains the

objection of lack of unity raised by the Search Examiner, a divisional application will have to be filed for any remaining group of claims for which protection is sought.

Our corresponding debit note is also enclosed.

Very truly yours,



Eric ENDERLIN

Enclosures : Partial European search report
Cited documents (by mail)
Debit note (by mail)